

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A process cartridge being freely attachable to and detachable from a main body of an image forming apparatus, the process cartridge comprising a latent image bearing body and a developing device having a developer storage space for storing a developer,

wherein the developer storage space is divided into a first developer storage portion and a second developer storage portion in a vertical direction such that a latent image writing position of the latent image bearing body is interposed between the first developer storage portion and the second developer storage portion, the first developer storage portion and the second developer storage portion communicate with each other through a developer path, and the developer has a compression ratio in a range of 0.30 to 0.40.

2. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the developer has a compression ratio in a range of 0.32 to 0.38.

3. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein a toner included in the developer comprises a magnetic powder in an amount of 35 to 55 % by mass.

4. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein a toner included in the developer comprises particles selected from the group consisting of silica, aluminum oxide and titanium oxide.

5. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein a toner included in the developer has a charge amount in a range of -0.3 to -20.0 ($\mu\text{C/g}$) as measured by a suction method.

6. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising a main body and a process cartridge that is freely attachable to and detachable from the main body, the process cartridge

comprising a latent image bearing body and a developing device having a developer storage space for storing a developer,

wherein the developer storage space is divided into a first developer storage portion and a second developer storage portion in a vertical direction such that a latent image writing position of the latent image bearing body is interposed between the first developer storage portion and the second developer storage portion, the first developer storage portion and the second developer storage portion communicate with each other through a developer path, and the developer has a compression ratio in a range of 0.30 to 0.40.

7. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the developer has a compression ratio in a range of 0.32 to 0.38.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-cartridge~~image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a toner included in the developer comprises a magnetic powder in an amount of 35 to 55 % by mass.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-cartridge~~image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a toner included in the developer comprises particles selected from the group consisting of silica, aluminum oxide and titanium oxide.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-cartridge~~image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a toner included in the developer has a charge amount in a range of -0.3 to -20.0 ($\mu\text{C/g}$) as measured by a suction method.

11. (Original) An image forming method comprising the steps of:
forming an electrostatic latent image on a surface of a latent image bearing body;
developing the electrostatic latent image with a developer in a developing device; and
transferring a developed toner image onto a transfer body,
wherein, in the developing device, a developer storage space is divided into a first developer storage portion and a second developer storage portion in a vertical direction, and

the first developer storage portion and the second developer storage portion communicate with each other through a developer path, and

wherein the latent image forming step comprises writing the latent image through a gap between the first developer storage portion and the second developer storage portion, and the developer has a compression ratio in a range of 0.30 to 0.40.

12. (Original) The image forming method according to claim 11, wherein the developer has a compression ratio in a range of 0.32 to 0.38.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-cartridge-image forming method~~ according to claim 11, wherein a toner included in the developer comprises a magnetic powder in an amount of 35 to 55 % by mass.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-cartridge-image forming method~~ according to claim 11, wherein a toner included in the developer comprises particles selected from the group consisting of silica, aluminum oxide and titanium oxide.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-cartridge-image forming method~~ according to claim 11, wherein a toner included in the developer has a charge amount in a range of -0.3 to -20.0 ($\mu\text{C/g}$) as measured by a suction method.

16-20. (Canceled)